

Gender equality in sports science research

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"Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, it is one of the essential foundations for building a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. So begins the declaration of Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the United Nations (UN).

Fortunately, the presence of women in all areas of society is becoming more and more noticeable. However, the latest UNESCO report highlights gender inequalities in universities and research organisations, finding gender to be a variable that influences entry, tenure and success within a scientific community. Only 33% of research staff worldwide are women, receiving less research funding and being less likely to be promoted, according to UN-Women. In this sense, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) in its gender equality plan (2021-2025) promotes the promotion of the gender perspective in science and innovation.

Since the founding of the journal *Cultura, Ciencia y Deporte* (CCD), the search for equity and equality has been present, with the Catholic University San Antonio of Murcia (UCAM) being a benchmark among Spanish universities in terms of positions of maximum responsibility held by women, starting with its Rector Magnificent Josefina García Lozano, and its vice-rectors for Research, María Estrella Núñez Delicado, and for Virtual Teaching, María Belén López Ayuso, as well as several deans, vice-deans and directors of different university bodies. In this sense, and in line with the values of the institution, editorial decisions have been taken in the interests of equality and in the search for excellence, and this is the basis for the changes that have taken place.

This is the first issue of a new era in the journal *Cultura, Ciencia y Deporte*, where we are pleased to announce that FECYT has recently awarded the journal *Cultura Ciencia y Deporte* the Mention of good editorial practices in gender equality. In addition, the editorial team of the journal has been renewed, with both the editor-in-chief and the editors of the journal now being women who have received numerous awards and have scientific experience. Not in vain, on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, whose objective is to achieve greater participation and inclusion of women and girls in the world of science and technology, the Association of Women Scientists of the Region of Murcia (Lyceum of Science) annually awards the Young Women Scientists of the Region of Murcia Awards, with the aim of raising awareness and promoting the scientific vocation of girls, and to recognise deservedly deserved women scientists. Dr. Noelia González Gálvez (awarded by the Sports Area in 2021) and Dr. María de la Trinidad Morales Belando (awarded for the Area of Social Sciences in 2022), two of the professors who are part of the Faculty of Sport of the UCAM and whose research was awarded in two consecutive years for being valued by the highest level committee in their area, representing for them a personal and professional

recognition; and a pride for the institution, will be from now on the editors of this journal.

The change within the journal *Cultura, Ciencia y Deporte* is received with excitement and enthusiasm. On the verge of coming of age and after its long and successful trajectory, we hope that this issue will be the first of many in the new structuring of the editorial team. We cannot end without expressing our utmost admiration, recognition and homage to the founders of the journal: Prof. Dr. Antonio Sánchez Pato and Prof. Juan de Dios Bada Jaime, for the hard and constant work carried out up to now, which has brought this journal to the level of excellence at which it is now. As well as the editorial team that has worked and continues to do so in order to contribute to quality scientific dissemination.

Finally, we would like to coin one of Margarita Salas' most famous phrases in the form of a wish: "Women will occupy the position in the scientific world that corresponds to their capacity, and we will not need quotas or anything like that".